

Occupational Earnings in All Metropolitan Areas, August 1990



U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
August 1991

Summary 91-9

Occupational wage studies are conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 90 metropolitan areas of the United States. Approximately 60 areas are surveyed each year; 32 are surveyed annually and 29 biennially, alternating with the remaining 29 areas in the program. The average weekly and hourly earnings data in this report were derived from information collected in the 60 sample areas surveyed in 1990,¹ appropriately weighted to represent all 326 metropolitan areas in the United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through October 1984.

Earnings data in this summary are presented for all metropolitan areas combined, with separate broad regional and industry detail. Selected office; professional and technical; maintenance, toolroom, and powerplant; and material movement and custodial occupations are included. By region, average earnings were generally highest in the West and lowest in the South (tables 1 and 2). Among industry divisions, average earnings were highest in transportation and utilities and lowest in retail trade (tables 3 and 4). These differences in pay levels reflect a number of factors within individual metropolitan areas, such as type of industry, extent of unionization, average size of establishment, and length of service of employees in their current job.

The Area Wage Survey program covers six industry divisions: Manufacturing; transportation, communications, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. Major exclusions are the mining and construction indus-

tries, health and education services, and government. Establishments employing fewer than 50 workers, regardless of industry, also are excluded. (In 19 of the largest areas, the minimum establishment size is 100 workers in manufacturing; transportation, communications, and other public utilities; and retail trade.)

Individual area bulletins are published upon the completion of each survey. Data on average straight-time earnings and the distribution of workers by earnings intervals are presented for selected occupations and industry groupings. The area bulletins also present information on selected establishment practices and employee benefits including minimum entrance salaries for inexperienced office workers; shift differentials; scheduled weekly hours and days of work; paid holidays; paid vacations; insurance, health, and retirement plans; health plan participation; and other selected benefits. This information on establishment practices and employee benefits is collected every fourth year.

In addition to the Area Wage Survey program, the Bureau conducted 75 wage surveys in 1990 at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act. Although generally similar to the regular area wage surveys, these surveys are more restricted in the number of benefits studied and the amount of detail published for industry groupings. For information on individual area publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the inside back page.

¹ The average month of reference is August 1990. Data were collected throughout 1990.

COMPLETED

Table 1. Average weekly earnings for selected office, professional, and technical occupations, all metropolitan areas, by region, August 1990

Occupation ¹	Total number of workers	Average straight-time weekly earnings ²				
		All metropolitan areas	Region ³			
			Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Secretarial and keyboarding occupations						
Secretaries	303,517	\$463.50	\$489.00	\$424.00	\$456.50	\$480.50
I	45,337	394.00	451.00	348.50	387.00	355.00
II	60,983	406.50	417.50	394.50	390.50	422.50
III	118,535	463.00	480.00	440.00	456.50	471.50
IV	55,231	532.00	547.00	505.00	512.00	548.50
V	18,120	632.50	655.00	590.00	613.00	642.00
Typists	20,515	307.50	311.00	290.50	299.00	349.00
I	14,111	283.00	290.00	271.00	269.50	316.50
II	6,317	362.00	354.00	355.00	357.50	418.00
Word processors	34,546	378.50	402.50	353.00	360.50	414.00
I	15,150	337.50	365.50	327.00	317.50	361.50
II	19,359	410.50	428.00	384.50	394.00	438.50
Key entry operators	90,815	314.50	337.00	286.50	301.00	343.00
I	62,706	292.50	318.50	268.50	279.50	320.00
II	28,101	363.50	374.50	356.00	345.00	378.00
Other clerical occupations						
Accounting clerks	240,028	356.50	368.50	339.50	352.50	373.00
I	23,532	288.00	297.00	278.00	278.50	298.00
II	126,736	332.50	348.50	311.50	332.50	344.50
III	65,276	393.50	404.00	373.50	387.50	419.50
IV	22,948	457.50	487.00	427.50	471.00	469.50
Payroll clerks	31,407	383.00	385.00	357.50	389.00	407.50
File clerks	29,382	259.00	268.00	252.50	248.50	270.00
I	18,060	238.50	248.00	228.00	226.00	255.00
II	9,828	286.50	294.00	287.50	271.00	288.50
III	1,494	333.50	322.00	-	-	-
Messengers	13,117	268.50	264.00	266.00	267.50	292.50
Order clerks	49,665	332.50	356.50	283.50	332.00	363.50
I	31,492	299.50	333.50	254.50	292.50	328.00
II	18,126	389.50	397.00	379.00	367.00	443.50
Receptionists	11,532	306.50	349.00	287.00	290.00	318.00
Switchboard operators	19,870	284.50	337.00	250.00	284.50	292.00
Switchboard operator-receptionists	51,728	304.50	328.50	280.00	292.50	316.50
Professional and technical occupations						
Computer systems analysts	149,154	805.00	819.00	798.50	777.00	830.50
I	26,834	642.00	652.00	639.50	635.50	639.00
II	64,418	759.00	769.00	757.00	740.50	774.50
III	43,105	895.50	914.50	884.00	864.50	916.00
IV	13,070	1056.50	1080.50	1080.50	1013.00	1053.00
Computer programmers	98,105	619.00	633.00	632.50	584.00	638.50
I	10,161	474.50	474.50	492.00	462.50	464.00
II	36,190	555.00	561.00	576.00	529.50	558.50
III	35,110	655.50	687.50	639.50	627.50	677.50
IV	15,818	781.50	807.00	774.00	755.50	796.00
Computer operators	69,541	436.50	450.00	413.50	430.00	456.50
I	6,198	330.00	340.50	312.50	331.50	346.50
II	31,184	392.50	406.00	374.00	391.50	399.00
III	24,898	479.50	497.00	452.50	471.00	497.00
Drafters	45,588	524.50	540.00	490.00	556.00	496.00
I	1,489	312.50	-	323.50	286.50	-
II	7,493	390.00	400.00	390.00	380.50	397.00
III	13,161	465.00	484.50	455.50	472.00	441.00
IV	12,499	554.50	537.00	547.00	579.00	542.50
V	10,388	695.50	671.50	752.00	710.00	624.00
Electronics technicians	120,217	591.00	576.00	585.00	619.50	586.50
I	13,539	416.50	415.00	399.50	480.00	393.50
II	65,685	586.00	584.50	598.50	597.50	567.50
III	40,128	656.00	621.00	628.50	679.50	678.50
Registered industrial nurses	5,157	587.50	578.50	563.00	587.00	681.00

¹ Total employment and average earnings for overall classifications may include data for workers not classified by level.

² Earnings relate to regular straight-time salaries that are paid for standard workweeks.

³ The regions are defined as follows: *Northeast*—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont; *South*—Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia; *Midwest*—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; and *West*—Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that data do not meet publication criteria.

Table 2. Average hourly earnings for selected maintenance, toolroom, powerplant, material movement, and custodial occupations, all metropolitan areas, by region, August 1990

Occupation ¹	Total number of workers	Average straight-time hourly earnings ²				
		All metropolitan areas	Region ³			
			Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Maintenance, toolroom, and powerplant occupations						
Maintenance carpenters	9,622	\$15.01	\$13.73	\$13.78	\$16.15	\$15.98
Maintenance electricians	79,432	16.19	15.01	14.42	17.16	16.60
Maintenance painters	6,891	15.26	14.45	12.35	16.84	15.21
Maintenance machinists	24,220	14.89	14.38	13.84	15.55	16.26
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	106,434	14.87	13.86	13.22	16.17	14.96
Maintenance pipefitters	24,390	16.79	15.66	16.02	17.26	16.45
Millwrights	20,286	16.90	15.35	-	17.38	-
Motor vehicle mechanics	54,323	14.39	14.65	12.61	15.41	15.17
General maintenance workers	64,605	9.36	10.68	7.69	9.85	9.66
Maintenance trades helpers	6,299	11.48	11.66	9.29	12.55	11.07
Machine-tool operators (toolroom)	13,603	15.85	15.34	12.65	16.24	16.81
Tool and die makers	52,465	16.68	15.61	14.59	17.38	17.06
Stationary engineers	15,761	15.98	15.80	13.88	16.35	18.49
Material movement and custodial occupations						
Truckdrivers	307,625	12.17	13.30	9.92	13.17	12.67
Light truck	29,262	7.97	9.46	6.89	9.00	7.22
Medium truck	85,124	12.98	13.46	11.56	13.36	14.04
Heavy truck	62,981	11.25	12.48	8.06	12.44	12.32
Tractor-trailer	111,153	13.00	14.09	10.57	14.07	13.63
Shippers	21,734	9.96	10.63	8.94	10.40	9.39
Receivers	26,989	9.49	10.09	8.18	9.64	9.94
Shippers and receivers	29,101	9.89	9.63	8.79	10.64	10.25
Warehousemen	134,344	10.11	11.35	8.59	10.36	10.24
Order fillers	71,524	9.37	9.42	8.14	9.35	10.75
Shipping packers	32,184	8.45	8.35	7.01	9.01	7.75
Material handling laborers	82,129	10.27	10.06	7.29	12.00	10.01
Forklift operators	111,599	11.29	10.89	9.18	12.63	12.01
Power-truck operators (other than forklift)	7,314	11.94	11.91	11.04	11.89	13.24
Guards	262,736	6.28	6.87	5.38	6.62	6.44
I	238,505	5.99	6.72	5.13	6.12	6.11
II	23,040	9.37	9.49	8.41	9.31	10.76
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	410,716	6.70	8.39	4.93	7.60	6.19

¹ Total employment and average earnings for overall classifications of truckdrivers and guards include data for workers not classified by category or level.

² Earnings exclude premium pay for overtime and work on week-

ends, holidays, and late shifts. Nonproduction bonuses and other lump-sum payments are also excluded.

³ See footnote 3, table 1.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that data do not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. Average weekly earnings for selected office, professional, and technical occupations, by industry division, August 1990

Occupation ¹	Average straight-time weekly earnings ²						
	Manufacturing	Nonmanufacturing	Transportation and utilities ³	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance ⁴	Services
Secretarial and keyboarding occupations							
Secretaries	\$477.00	\$457.00	\$503.00	\$464.00	\$419.00	\$455.00	\$446.00
I	403.00	391.00	417.50	372.50	318.00	413.00	353.50
II	413.50	403.00	455.00	420.50	375.00	391.00	404.00
III	470.00	459.00	504.00	458.50	425.00	454.50	454.50
IV	534.50	530.50	571.50	549.00	503.00	522.00	524.00
V	636.50	629.50	657.00	668.50	575.50	633.50	604.00
Typists	333.50	302.50	404.00	303.50	314.00	277.00	306.00
I	302.50	280.00	348.50	271.50	299.50	264.50	294.00
II	378.50	357.00	476.50	-	-	313.00	358.50
Word processors	397.00	375.50	421.50	396.50	348.50	353.00	395.00
I	341.50	337.00	395.50	335.50	322.50	317.00	357.50
II	437.00	405.50	436.50	434.00	375.50	385.00	422.00
Key entry operators	328.50	311.00	377.00	328.50	298.50	290.00	310.00
I	306.50	289.50	345.00	309.00	287.00	268.50	290.50
II	370.00	362.00	421.50	369.50	334.00	348.50	353.00
Other clerical occupations							
Accounting clerks	370.50	351.50	418.00	343.00	307.50	349.50	352.50
I	291.50	287.00	353.50	289.00	256.50	285.00	293.00
II	338.50	330.50	398.50	324.00	297.50	326.00	334.50
III	400.00	390.50	437.50	395.50	362.00	368.00	400.00
IV	484.00	446.00	462.50	468.00	410.50	423.50	451.00
Payroll clerks	388.50	379.50	436.00	383.50	341.00	388.00	365.00
File clerks	274.50	258.00	350.50	256.50	248.50	248.00	287.50
I	256.00	236.50	276.50	248.00	227.50	231.50	260.50
II	292.00	286.00	352.50	300.00	-	272.00	307.50
III	-	329.00	-	-	-	297.00	-
Messengers	294.50	263.00	333.50	302.00	250.50	258.00	251.50
Order clerks	348.00	319.50	-	347.00	244.50	-	-
I	319.00	286.50	-	313.50	243.50	-	-
II	386.00	393.50	-	395.00	-	-	-
Receptionists	318.50	303.50	301.00	295.00	247.00	310.00	313.00
Switchboard operators	347.00	276.00	370.00	309.00	257.50	289.50	257.50
Switchboard operator-receptionists	308.00	303.00	309.50	308.50	266.00	302.50	318.00
Professional and technical occupations							
Computer systems analysts	812.50	802.00	827.50	822.50	732.50	788.50	812.00
I	640.50	642.50	662.50	656.50	634.50	637.00	644.50
II	760.50	758.50	784.00	759.50	720.00	756.00	755.50
III	904.00	892.50	898.50	904.50	830.50	875.00	916.50
IV	1035.00	1067.00	1018.50	1081.50	-	1057.00	1088.00
Computer programmers	627.50	616.50	647.00	625.50	577.00	595.00	624.00
I	492.50	467.00	481.00	519.00	410.00	466.00	462.00
II	572.00	549.00	574.50	577.50	533.00	534.50	547.00
III	664.50	653.50	689.00	631.00	625.50	644.00	653.50
IV	774.50	785.00	798.00	771.50	787.00	763.00	795.50
Computer operators	450.00	431.50	497.00	417.00	384.00	423.00	435.00
I	343.00	325.50	391.50	330.50	283.00	314.00	335.50
II	403.00	389.00	455.50	383.50	366.50	378.00	388.00
III	489.00	475.50	535.00	447.00	429.00	472.50	473.00
Drafters	512.50	542.00	536.50	533.00	-	-	546.50
I	312.00	313.00	-	-	-	-	306.00
II	358.50	420.00	464.50	-	-	-	392.50
III	446.00	492.00	511.50	-	-	-	477.50
IV	537.00	586.00	606.50	-	-	-	579.50
V	660.50	763.50	739.00	-	-	-	767.50
Electronics technicians	531.50	634.50	662.50	598.00	-	-	523.50
I	393.50	453.00	514.00	431.50	-	-	394.00
II	499.00	627.50	652.00	581.50	-	-	503.50
III	618.50	698.50	715.00	693.50	-	-	625.00
Registered industrial nurses	580.50	613.00	688.50	-	-	620.00	-

¹ Average earnings for overall classifications may include data for workers not classified by level.

² Earnings relate to regular straight-time salaries that are paid for standard workweeks.

³ Transportation, communications, and other public utilities.

⁴ Finance, insurance, and real estate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that data do not meet publication criteria.

Table 4. Average hourly earnings for selected maintenance, toolroom, powerplant, material movement, and custodial occupations, by industry division, August 1990

Occupation ¹	Average straight-time hourly earnings ²						
	Manufacturing	Nonmanufacturing	Transportation and utilities ³	Wholesale trade	Retail trade	Finance ⁴	Services
Maintenance, toolroom, and powerplant occupations							
Maintenance carpenters	\$15.67	\$13.90	\$13.64	-	\$14.13	\$14.73	\$13.97
Maintenance electricians	16.18	16.24	16.88	\$13.92	14.43	14.39	14.45
Maintenance painters	16.08	13.46	15.77	-	-	12.43	12.42
Maintenance machinists	14.68	16.01	16.32	-	-	-	-
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	14.63	16.41	17.71	12.42	-	-	12.08
Maintenance pipefitters	16.89	15.46	-	-	-	-	-
Millwrights	16.89	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor vehicle mechanics	14.11	14.47	15.04	13.79	13.05	-	12.95
General maintenance workers	10.38	8.72	11.21	9.85	8.83	8.67	8.15
Maintenance trades helpers	11.28	11.75	12.44	-	-	-	-
Machine-tool operators (toolroom)	15.88	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tool and die makers	16.68	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stationary engineers	15.74	16.30	17.07	-	16.22	15.07	16.98
Material movement and custodial occupations							
Truckdrivers	11.31	12.40	14.34	10.97	9.25	9.69	9.43
Light truck	8.01	7.96	11.01	7.52	6.40	9.62	7.59
Medium truck	11.73	13.15	15.87	9.56	7.50	-	10.19
Heavy truck	11.07	11.33	11.81	11.24	8.22	-	-
Tractor-trailer	11.50	13.42	14.52	12.49	12.59	-	-
Shippers	10.03	9.75	-	9.86	9.67	-	9.16
Receivers	10.16	9.01	-	9.07	8.95	-	7.54
Shippers and receivers	9.85	9.96	13.84	10.56	8.40	-	8.11
Warehousemen	9.92	10.21	11.25	10.26	10.16	9.00	8.03
Order fillers	8.89	9.52	-	9.61	9.36	-	-
Shipping packers	9.01	7.20	-	7.09	7.25	-	-
Material handling laborers	10.04	10.42	13.78	10.25	7.50	-	6.89
Forklift operators	11.30	11.25	12.68	11.26	10.83	-	-
Power-truck operators (other than forklift)	12.37	10.92	-	-	-	-	-
Guards	11.03	5.86	10.63	8.45	6.96	8.78	5.61
I	10.58	5.66	8.79	8.46	6.75	8.22	5.50
II	12.30	8.43	13.21	-	8.91	10.10	7.57
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	10.31	6.10	10.13	8.70	6.50	7.76	5.84

¹ Average earnings for overall classifications of truckdrivers and guards include data for workers not classified by category or level.

² Earnings exclude premium pay for overtime and work on week-ends, holidays, and late shifts. Nonproduction bonuses and other

lump-sum payments are also excluded.

³ Transportation, communications, and other public utilities.

⁴ Finance, insurance, and real estate.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that data do not meet publication criteria.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Regional Offices



Region I

1 Congress Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
Phone: (617) 565-2327

Region IV

1371 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30367
Phone: (404) 347-4416

Regions VII and VIII

911 Walnut Street
Kansas City, MO 64106
Phone: (816) 426-2481

Region II

Room 808
201 Varick Street
New York, NY 10014
Phone: (212) 337-2400

Region V

9th Floor
Federal Office Building
230 S. Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: (312) 353-1880

Regions IX and X

71 Stevenson Street
P.O. Box 193766
San Francisco, CA 94119
Phone: (415) 744-6600

Region III

3535 Market Street
P.O. Box 13309
Philadelphia, PA 19101
Phone: (215) 596-1154

Region VI

Federal Building
525 Griffin Street, Room 221
Dallas, TX 75202
Phone: (214) 767-6970

END

FILMED

09 / 14 / 92